

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Support for each claim amendment is found at the originally filed claims and throughout the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

The indefiniteness rejection of Claim 5 is obviated by the amendment of Claim 5.

The indefiniteness rejection of Claims 1, 13-4, 17, 21 and 29-30 is obviated by amendment of these claims.

The anticipation and obviousness rejections of Claims 1-13, 15-16, 18-23, and 31-32, as being unpatentable over WO 02/24971 ('971) are respectfully traversed because '971 does not describe or suggest the feature of, for example, Claim 1, that "second coating (3) ...[has] a discontinuous and/or permeable structure. Further, '971 "teaches away from" this claim feature.

'971 discloses TiO₂ coatings sputtered on glass. The coatings of '971 are dense coatings that cover the surface of the glass substrate. Therefore, they cannot have a discontinuous and/or permeable structure, and thus cannot anticipate or render obvious the present claims.

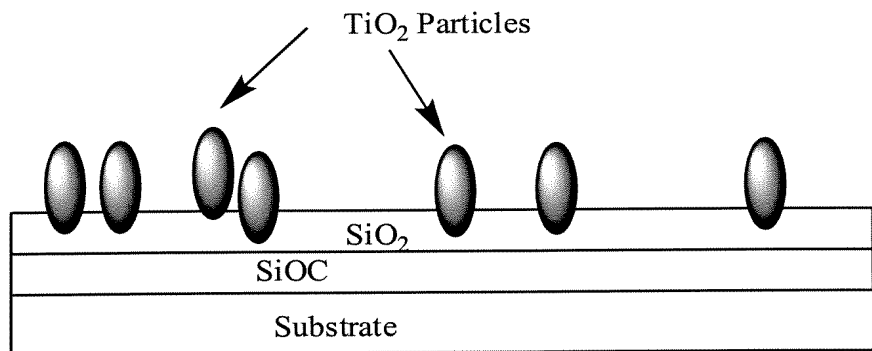
Put differently, the coatings of '971 are not sufficiently porous and sufficiently non-covering to allow access to a certain portion of the external surface of the subjacent first coating.

Accordingly '971 cannot anticipate or render obvious the present claims, and in fact "teaches away from" a feature of the present claims.

Withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is requested.

The anticipation and obviousness rejections of Claims 1-5, 12-13, 18-23, and 31-32, as being unpatentable over Azzopardi, are respectfully traversed.

Azzopardi does not describe or suggest a discontinuous and/or permeable outer coating that is a feature of, for example, present Claim 1. Rather, Azzopardi describes a TiO_2 outer coating deposited over a SiOC sub-coating. The TiO_2 coating is composed of TiO_2 particles embedded in an SiO_2 binder (see column 4, lines 61-63 of Azzopardi), the form of the particle making it possible to obtain irregularities on the surface. The SiO_2 binder, deposited by a sol-gel process (see column 4, lines 32-24, of Azzopardi), necessarily covers the whole SiOC underlying surface, as shown schematically below:



Accordingly, Azzopardi neither describes or suggest all of the features of, for example, present Claim 1, and in fact “teaches away from” the present Claim 1 feature that the “second coating (3) ...[has] a discontinuous and/or permeable structure,” because the $\text{SiO}_2/\text{TiO}_2$ layer is both continuous and not permeable (e.g., does not allow access to) the underlying SiOC layer.

Withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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